

motion to advance LB 507. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Please record Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on the advancement of 507.

PRESIDENT MOUL: LB 507 is advanced. LB 724.

CLERK: LB 724 was a bill introduced by Senator Day. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 21, referred to the Retirement Systems Committee for hearing, advanced to General File. There are committee amendments that you'll find in your bill books by the Retirement Systems Committee.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Horgan.

SENATOR HORGAN: Thank you, Madam President and members. LB 724 is a bill which changes several provisions of first class city firefighter retirement plans. It's the result of extensive negotiation between the firefighters, the League of Municipalities and the cities the league represents. In fact that's the reason why the Retirement Committee decided to make this a committee priority bill, due to the fact that the groups did come together and negotiate an agreement with this bill. The committee amendments, which is 0729, strikes all sections of LB 724 and, in effect, becomes the bill. So the white copy is the bill. And there is a section-by-section analysis of LB 724 in the committee statements. The more significant sections of the bill that are outlined for you, first of all, a first class city firefighter, with 21 years of service, is permitted to terminate employment after 21 years of service, and then later receive full pension benefits when he or she retains...or reaches the age of 55. The second section that's important is in the amendment. It provides a new definition of disability, establishes procedures for medical review of disability, and provides that the disability benefit is to be payable only upon adequate proof of disability, consisting of a medical examination conducted by a competent, disinterested physician who certifies to the city that the firefighter is unable to perform the duties of a firefighter. The conditions are established for a firefighter to return to duty after a determination that he or she is no longer disabled, and that is an agreement that was worked out, an important part of the bill, part of the consensus of the bill. Next, the amendment permits firefighters to receive their pension benefit in a lump sum